



- the scheme for surveying Jersey's pondlife!

**Dr John W. Wilkinson**

Amphibian and Reptile Conservation



**amphibian and reptile**  
**conservation** 

## Pondwatch – ID:

- Amphibians (and grass snake)
- Fish
- Dragonflies and damselflies
- Other invertebrates



# AMPHIBIANS



# Palmate newt

< 9 cm,  
often much smaller



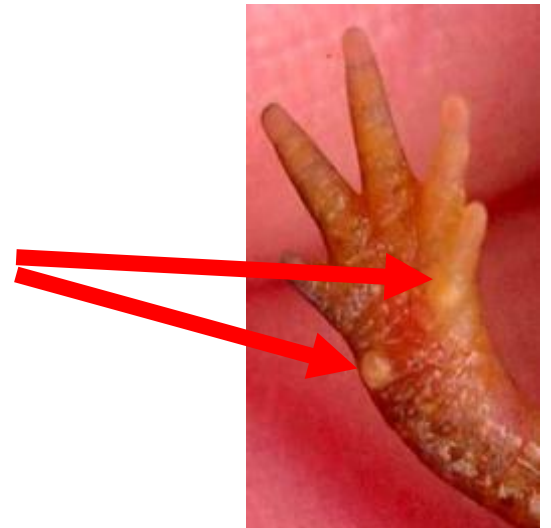


Palmate ♂



Palmate ♀

Two pale  
tubercles/nodules



# Comparing newts and lizards





# Agile frog



< 9 cm



Krissy Le Feuvre







# Western common toad / crapaud

< 8 cm (males)

< 12 cm (females)





Crapauds in a pond in “amplexus” – the mating embrace used before spawning (which is also used by agile frogs).





# Sexing adult frogs and toads

Female toads and frogs are usually bigger and fatter than the males. In the breeding season (spring), roughened, dark pads can be seen on the forefingers and thumbs of males (“nuptial pads”) – they are used for grasping females during mating. This feature is also found in male frogs but is not always so easy to see.



The nuptial pads on a  
crapaud's front foot ©  
John Wilkinson

# Comparing frogs and crapauds





# Alien amphibians



**common frog**



**green frog**



**fire-bellied toad**



**Japanese fire-bellied newt**



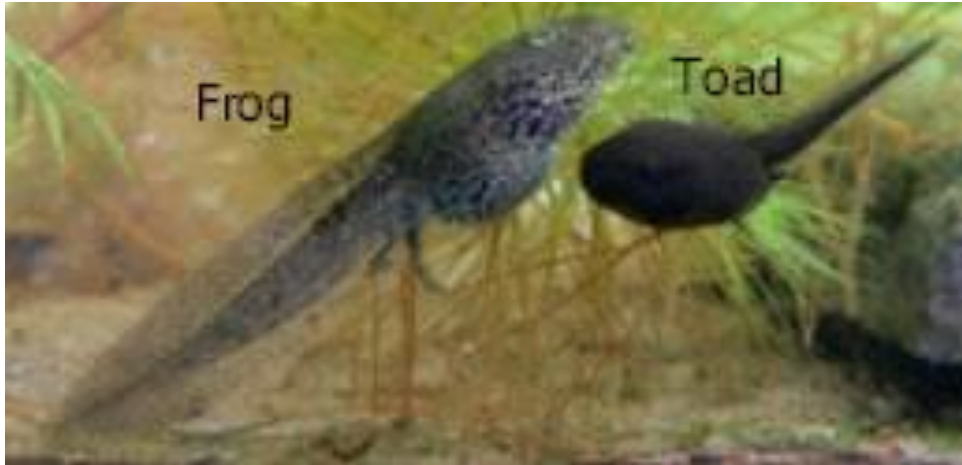
**great crested newt**

# Amphibian eggs





# Amphibian tadpoles



# GRASS SNAKE





# Grass snake

Typically olive-green (sometimes more brown or greyish), 16-100cm+. Large eyes with obviously round pupils. Rare in Jersey, most sightings from the west coast dunes. This is the same species found in England and Wales, but Jersey animals often lack a yellow collar (especially older ones).

## *In brief:*

**Grows to 100 cm in length or more**

**Rare and secretive**

**Lays eggs in compost heaps,  
manure piles and rotting vegetation**

**Found near water, eats amphibians**





# Grass snake – males and females



Males: smaller, thinner, but longer tails. Narrow heads with protruding eyes.



Females: get bigger, but shorter tapering tails. Broad arrow shaped heads, eyes recessed.



# Grass snake – eggs and juveniles



Eggs are usually laid in manure/compost; their texture is leathery.



Tracy Farrer

Hatchling juveniles are exact replicas of adults!



# Grass snake – egg-laying sites



One of the reasons for the scarcity of Jersey's grass snakes could be a reduction in the availability of egg-laying sites. They prefer compost, manure heaps or other rotting vegetation that generates heat as it decomposes, this helps to incubate the eggs. Such places are good places to start looking!





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*....and this is?*





**FISH**





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**Pumpkinseed**

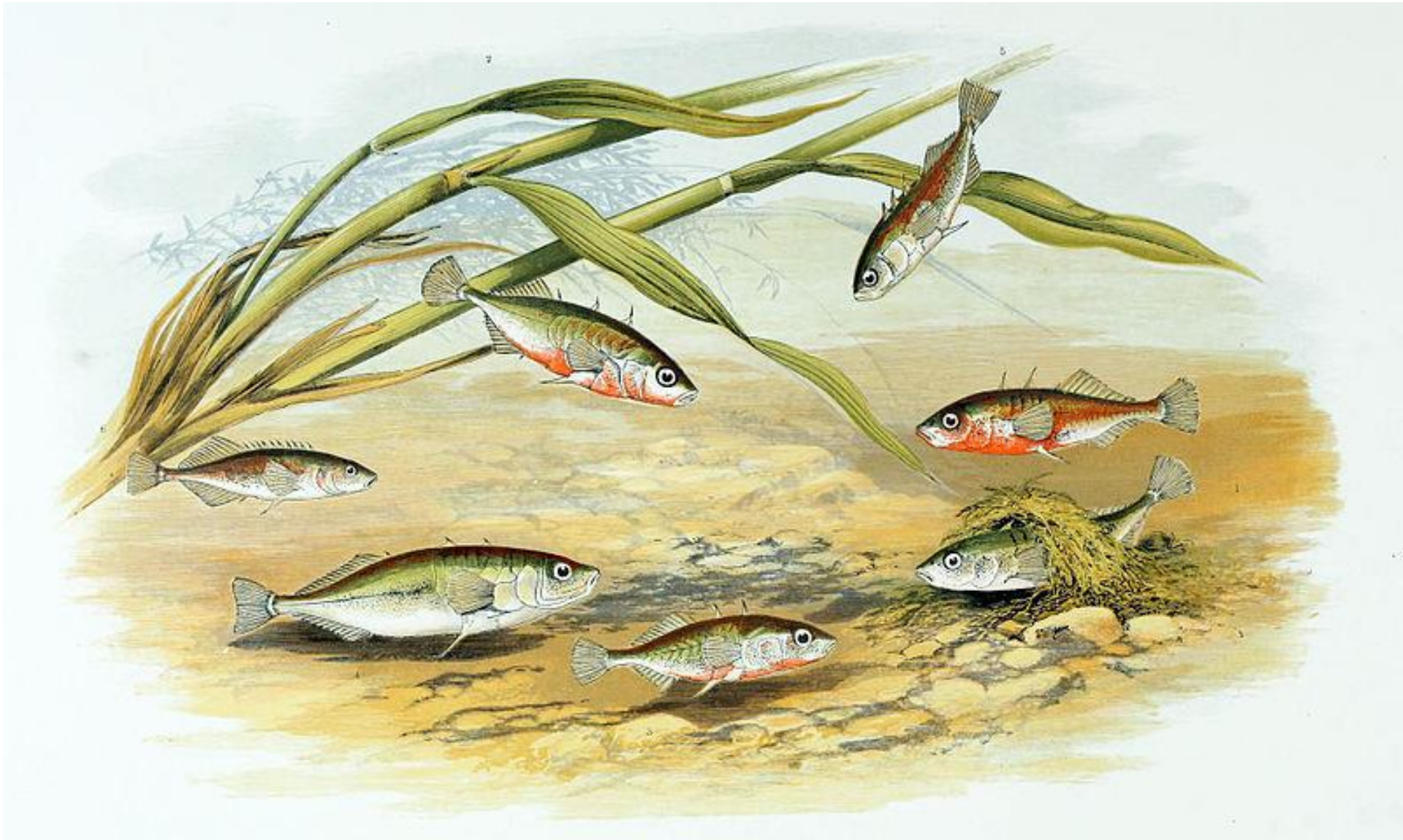


Spined loach © Wim Rubers - Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Unported



Stone loach by OpenCage.jpg Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 2.5 Generic





**Three-spined stickleback**

**...and larger fish in some reservoirs!**



**Thanks for listening!**

